

Roanoke, Town of  
(M.E. Whelan House)  
Roanoke  
Lewis County  
West Virginia

HABS No. WV-209-D

HABS  
WVA  
21-ROAN,  
5-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
MID-ATLANTIC REGION NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19106

HABS  
WVA  
20-ROAN,  
5-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ROANOKE, TOWN OF  
(M.E. Whelan House)

HABS No. WV-209-D (

Location: Roanoke, West Virginia.

Elevation: ca. 1080'.

UTM References as given on the National Register of Historic Places Nomination form:

Zone: 17

Easting: 543880

Northing: 4309080

U.S.G.S. Map: Roanoke, West Virginia, 7.5' (1966 edition, photo revised 1979).

Present Owner: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Present Occupant: none.

Present Use: none.

Construction Date: dwelling ca. 1888

Informants: James Whelan; Bonnie Hawkins Fultineer.

Historical Information:

The dwelling on this tract was one of the first structures built in Roanoke, West Virginia, perhaps preceded only by the office building on the same tract (HABS No. WV-209-E), The Feeney House (HABS No. WV-209-I), and the White Hotel (HABS No. WV-209-F). The town lots on which the dwelling was constructed (Lots 15 and 16) were purchased in 1882 by Michael E. Whelan, M.D., from a larger tract owned by Joseph and Mary Hall.

According to James "Doc" Whelan (1981, pers. comm.), the house was built for his father by John R. King of Canoe Run, West Virginia, who was a noted carpenter; stone for its foundation is said to have been quarried by three brothers, Mike, Sandy and Jim Tulley. James Whelan (1981, pers. comm.) stated that King completed the structure in 1882. However, data contained in the tax records suggest that the structure may not have been completed until ca. 1888 as it was not until 1889 that the tax value increased to \$360.00 from a very modest sum of \$28.00-\$34.00 between 1885 and 1888, figures which probably represented only the value of the land.

The two story tee-shaped Victorian dwelling was constructed with yellow poplar (*Liriodendron* sp.) framing and siding, oak floors and cut stone. A one story bracketed porch on a cut stone foundation was added (James Whelan 1981, pers. comm.). Later, a second story was added to the porch.

Originally, the residence had three rooms on the first floor; these included a living room/sitting room/bedroom (Room 3), parlor (Room 1) and dining room (Room 4) in addition to a spacious stair/entry hallway (James Whelan 1981, pers. comm.). About 1890, a kitchen (Room 5) was added to the rear of the dining room (James Whelan 1981, pers. comm.). The stairway leading to the second floor is grand in its detail especially in

TABLE  
Ownership of Tract 1516

Grantor	Grantee	Date of Transaction	Cost	Acreage	Reference	Comments
Ella Whelan	James Edward Whelan	25 Jan. 1955	\$10.00	1/2 (Lots 15 & 16)	Lewis County Deed Book 236: 77	
M. E. Whelan	Ella Whelan	18 Oct. 1930		1/2 (Lots 15 & 16)	Lewis County Will Book F: 142-143	
Joseph Hall & Mary Hall (wife)	M. E. Whelan	22 June 1882	\$200.0	1/2 (Lots 15 & 16)	Lewis County Deed Book 13: 3-4	
Michael G. Bush & Amelia Bush (wife)	Joseph Hall	20 Sept. 1847	\$1,100.00	86	Lewis County Deed Book N: 59	
John Sprigg & Elizabeth Sprigg (wife)	Michael G. Bush	23 Dec. 1825	\$1,200.00	91	Lewis County Deed Book C: 233	

TABLE  
Tax Record for Tract 1516

Name	Year	Land	Value per Acre	Value of Land	Value of Improvement	Total Value	Comments
John Sprigg	1817	310 acres Sand Fork/ West Fork	\$ .50			\$155.00	
	*1818 1819	310 acres Sand Fork/ West Fork	\$ .50		\$150.00	\$400.00	
	1820-1823	310 acres Sand Fork/ West Fork	\$3.50		\$131.25	\$1,085.00	
	1824-1826	310 acres Sand Fork/ West Fork	\$3.50			\$1,085.00	
Michael G. Bush	1827	20 acres West Fork	\$3.50			\$70.00	From John Sprigg
	1828-1833	91 acres West Fork	\$5.70		\$200.20	\$518.70	
	1834	91 acres West Fork	\$5.70			\$518.70	
	*1835						
	1836-1839	91 acres West Fork	\$5.70			\$518.70	
	1840-1847	91 acres West Fork	\$10.00			\$910.00	
Joseph Hall	1848	86 acres West Fork	\$10.00			\$860.00	From Michael G. Bush
	1849	86 acres West Fork	\$10.00			\$860.00	
	*1850						
	1851	86 acres West Fork	\$10.00			\$860.00	
	*1852-1853						
	1854-1855	85 acres West Fork	\$10.00			\$850.00	
	1856	85 acres West Fork	\$11.00		\$350.00	\$850.00	
	1857-1858	85 acres West Fork	\$13.00		\$600.00	\$1,105.00	
	*1859						
	1860	85 acres West Fork	\$13.00		\$600.00	\$1,105.00	
	*1861						
	1862-1867	85 acres West Fork	\$13.00		\$600.00	\$1,105.00	
	*1868-1869						
	1870-1872	85 acres West Fork	\$13.00		\$600.00	\$1,105.00	
	1873-1875	85 acres West Fork	\$13.00		\$400.00	\$1,105.00	
	1876	81 acres R-10; P-8 West Fork	\$14.30			\$1,160.00	

Sold 4 acres to Mitchell/Godfrey.  
R-10; P-8 may refer to 10 rods, 8 poles

Table (cont.)

Name	Year	Land	Value per Acre	Value of Land	Value of Improvement	Total Value	Comments
Joseph Hall (cont.)	1877-1880	81 acres R-10; P-8 West Fork	\$14.30			\$1,160.00	
	1881-1882	81 acres R-10; P-8 West Fork	\$13.00			\$1,063.00	
	1883	81 <sup>3</sup> acres West Fork	\$13.80		\$300.00	\$1,124.00	81 <sup>3</sup> may be 81 1/3 acres
	1884	80 1/2 acres West Fork	\$13.80		\$300.00	\$1,110.00	
M. E. Whelan	1885-1886	2 2/1 lots, Roanoke				\$34.00	
	1887-1888	2 acres + 9p, Roanoke				\$28.00	
	1889	3 rods (lot), Roanoke			\$350.00	\$360.00	9p may refer to 9 poles \$350 for building
	1890-1892	3 rods (lot), Roanoke			\$350.00	\$360.00	
	1893	3 rods (lot), Roanoke			\$300.00	\$715.00	
	1894-1895	3 rods (lot), Roanoke			\$550.00	\$715.00	
	1896-1899	3 rods (lot), Roanoke			\$500.00	\$700.00	
	1900-1905	3 rods (lot), Roanoke			\$1,000.00	\$1,900.00	
	1906-1908	3 rods (lot), Roanoke		\$900.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,900.00	
	1909-1924	3 rods (lot), Roanoke		\$500.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,500.00	
	1925-1927	3/4 acres, Roanoke		\$350.00		\$1,500.00	
	1928-1929	3/4 acres, Roanoke		\$350.00		\$1,350.00	
	1930	3/4 acres, Roanoke		\$350.00	\$950.00	\$1,300.00	
	1931	3/4 acres, Roanoke		\$350.00	\$950.00	\$1,300.00	
Ella Whelan (widow of M. E. Whelan	1932	3/4 acres, Roanoke		\$280.00	\$760.00	\$1,040.00	
	1933-1955	Lot (3/4 acres), Roanoke		\$280.00	\$760.00	\$1,040.00	
Life Estate	1956-1961	Lot (3/4 acres), Roanoke		\$280.00	\$760.00	\$1,040.00	
	1962	Lot (3/4 acres), Roanoke		\$280.00	\$1,430.00	\$1,710.00	

Table (cont.)

Name	Year	Land	Value per Acre	Value of Land	Value of Improvement	Total Value	Comments
James E. Whelan	1963-1967	Lot (3/4 acres), Roanoke		\$280.00	\$1,430.00	\$1,710.00	
	1968-1974	Lot (3/4 acres), Roanoke		\$630.00	\$1,780.00	\$2,410.00	
	1975	Lot (3/4 acres), Roanoke		\$630.00	\$4,780.00	\$5,410.00	
	1976-1980	Lot (3/4 acres), Roanoke		\$650.00	\$4,800.00	\$5,450.00	

\*Records Missing.

comparison with other dwellings in the community . Adjacent to the ca. 1890 kitchen, directly opposite the front door and through a rear hallway door (now enclosed) there is a small porch where a hand-operated water pump existed until approximately 1920 when plumbing was installed in the kitchen (James Whelan 1981, pers. comm.).

In addition to being the center for family entertainment, Room 3, the living room, served as the master bedroom of Ella Whelan, the widow of M. E. Whelan. She occupied this room as her bedroom until her death in 1963. In 1970, a portion of the main entry hallway was converted into a modern bathroom (James Whelan 1981, pers. comm.).

The upstairs always consisted of a large stair hallway and three bedrooms, each with built-in closets . Off the smallest of the three bedrooms (Room 9) there was a large attic area (above the Room 5 kitchen) accessible from a doorway in the northwest wall of the room .

Every room in the dwelling, except for the Room 5 kitchen and Room 9 was heated by a fireplace, although the fuel used in these rooms changed through the years from wood to coal to gas. Gas was introduced ca. 1910 when a gas well was drilled on the Porter-Arnold farm near Roanoke. Bob Coburn, a Roanoke blacksmith , reportedly purchased a carload of pipe and plumbed every dwelling in Roanoke. Thereafter, the Whelans also used gas for cooking and lighting (James Whelan 1981, pers. comm.).

Local residents interviewed in the preparation of this report especially remembered the interior detail of the Whelan house, which included ornate fireplace mantles, ornate wood paneling enclosing closets along the walls adjacent to the fireplaces and the fine sofas, love seats, marble-top tables and a solid oak dining table with which the dwelling was furnished. According to James Whelan (1981, pers. comm.) much of the furniture had been made specifically for his parents by a cabinetmaker.

Early in the 20th century, outbuildings on the property included a barn, a meat house, cellar house and a privy which was moved every several years to a new location. Chicken and hog pens contained animals that provided eggs and meat. The family also maintained a large vegetable garden with produce sufficient for both eating and canning (James Whelan 1981, pers. comm.).

The Whelan family was the only family to occupy the dwelling. Dr. M. E. Whelan moved to Roanoke in the last quarter of the 19th century and lived in the rear of his office building (See HABS No. WV-209-E) until his home was constructed. He then moved into his Victorian style home and remained there until his death. His widow, Ella, and their only child, James Whelan, resided in the structure until Ella's death in 1963. James, a Baltimore and Ohio Railroad worker, continued to live in the family home until about 1979 when it was purchased by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (James Whelan 1981, pers. comm.). After the sale of the property, many of the furnishings, including at least some of the Victorian furniture, were sold at auction (Bonnie Hawkins Fultineer 1981, pers. comm.).

Although he was not the only physician to practice in Roanoke, Dr. Whelan was, until the time of his death, among the village's most prominent citizens. Both his office and home were community focal points. A general practitioner, Dr. Whelan attended to

a wide variety of illnesses, delivered babies, mixed his own medicines (in the custom of the day) and sometimes even performed emergency surgery. He made countless house calls through the years, and his buggy and horses, tended by his son, James, were well-known all over the village and the farms which surrounded it. Interestingly, his home even contained holy water to be used to baptize the still-born and for last rites.

General Description: The M. E. Whelan House is a two story three bay tee-shaped frame (clapboard siding) structure with gable roofs; a two story porch currently is found along part of the southeast elevation; a smaller northeast-facing porch is attached to the northwest elevation of the main structure.

Exterior Description :

Overall Dimensions: 39'4" x 40'4".

Foundation: The original portion of the dwelling rests on dry-laid contiguous sandstone block piers that measure 2'6"-3' in length x 11" in height x 11"-1' in thickness (Figures 131, 132). The stones were carefully cut and surfaced on their faces and are beveled along the top edge . The rear addition (Rooms 5 and 10) is supported on

wooden piers.

Walls: The walls are composed of 4 3/4" clapboards applied with cut nails; the siding is painted white; the dripline is 1'1" above the foundation.

Framing: This is composed of light timber frame 2" x 5" studs on 17"-21" centers.

Porches: A two story porch 6'2" wide x 24'2" long is found along part of the southeastern elevation of the dwelling. The deck of the

lower level is raised 1'6" above the ground and is composed of 3 1/8" boards painted gray; contiguous sandstone blocks (similar to those of the dwelling foundation) support the porch. Access to the porch is from a single sandstone step (6' wide x 1'2" tread x 6" rise) plus a 7" riser; a 4' wide concrete sidewalk leads from County Route 23/5 (the old Weston and Gauley Bridge Turnpike) to the step.

The deck of the second story porch, which was added after that on the first floor, is supported by three white-painted 5" square columns. This porch's deck is of plywood painted gray and is covered by a shed roof supported by three 3" x 4" white-



painted columns and roofed with felt paper; a railing (27" high) of turned spindles encloses the southeast and northeast sides of the verandah ; the porch ceiling is white-painted hardboard nailed to wooden joists.

A second porch is attached to the northwest elevation structure. This porch is centered opposite a window (originally a door) which in turn is nearly opposite the front door of the dwelling. On a southeast to northwest axis the porch measures 14'1" and from southwest to northeast, 7'11"; 3 1/2" tongue and groove boards painted gray compose the deck except for a 3/4" addition to the northwest side of the porch which is covered by 6 1/2"-8 1/2" unpainted boards. The deck is 2' above the ground and is supported on a 1 1/4" x 1 1/4" sandstone pier with beveled top edges at the north corner and by a 5" x 5" wooden post along the northeast wall between the sandstone pier and the northwest wall of the dwelling. The slate-covered roof is an extension of the roofline of an earlier rear addition and is supported over the porch by two white-painted 5" x 5" square columns; access to this porch is from the northwest via a 30" wide x 11" tread x 6" rise sandstone step plus a 14" riser.

Chimneys: On the roof peak toward the northeast end of the dwelling there is a sandstone chimney with a brick stack ; on the roof peak near the inside corner of the right angle of the ell there is a sandstone chimney with a brick stack ; on the roof peak at the northwest end of the addition there is a brick chimney and stack for a stove .

Roof: The roof is a medium-pitch gable variety covered primarily with slate laid partially in a decorative, scale-like pattern; 2" x 4"-5" rafters are found on approximately 2'3" centers; eaves and raking trim consist of a boxed cornice with frieze board; in addition, both the raking trim and eaves employ decorative brackets. A part of the roof on the southwest side of the dwelling is covered with 10" on center raised seam sheet metal.

Interior Description: Room 1 (room numbers keyed to floor plans on pages 35-36)

Function: parlor.

Dimensions: 14'6" x 15'2"; 9'10" ceiling.

Wallcovering: 5 3/4" horizontal boards covered by linen then floral design wallpaper.

Floorcovering: 5 1/4" plain oak boards; linoleum previously covered central area of room; boards are oak-grained (or oak-figured) around periphery of room.

Ceiling: 5 1/4" plain boards; painted white.

Baseboard: 9" plain board with 1" ogee cap molding; painted white.

Heating: fireplace.

Fireplace: plastered sandstone; iron grate for gas or burning of logs; 2' wide x 2'5" high firebox; 1'5" x 4'4" hearth composed of 1 1/2" x 6" ceramic tiles; face of fireplace covered by 1 1/2" x 6" ceramic tile; wooden mantle .

Plumbing: none.

Lighting and Electricity: off center ceiling fixture; switch on southwest wall.

Interior Description: Room 2

Function: hallway.

Dimensions: 8'9" x 15'; 9'10" ceiling.

Wallcovering: 5 3/4" horizontal boards covered by linen then floral design wallpaper.

Floorcovering: 5 1/4" oak plain boards; linoleum previously covered central area of hallway; boards oak-grained (or oak-figured) around periphery of room.

Ceiling: 5" plain boards; painted white.

Baseboard: 9" plain board with 1" ogee cap molding; oak-grained (or oak-figured).

Heating: none.

Fireplace: none.

Plumbing: none.

Lighting and Electricity: off center ceiling fixture; switch on southwest wall.

Stairway: A stairway is located directly opposite the front door of the dwelling in the southeast elevation; it curves 180° to the left approximately half way up the stairs; oak or ash steps measure 36" wide x 10 7/8" tread x 7 1/2" rise; they have a 3/4" nose and a 6" riser; turned balusters with heavy, turned newel posts are employed; painted yellow-brown ; stairs dark-stained and varnished.

Other: On the southwest side of the stairway, a modern bathroom has been built into the hallway.

#### Interior Description: Room 3

Function: living room/bedroom/sitting room.

Dimensions: 14'9" x 15'2"; 9'11" ceiling.

Wallcovering: 5 3/4" horizontal boards covered with drywall; painted blue green.

Floorcovering: 5 1/4" plain boards covered with linoleum.

Ceiling: 5" plain boards; quarter round shoe around edges of ceiling; painted cream.

Baseboard: 9" plain board with 1" ogee cap molding; oak-grained (or oak-figured).

Heating: fireplace; gas connection on northwest wall between fireplace and doorway to Room 4.

Fireplace: plastered sandstone; coal burning grate; 1'5" x 4'2" sandstone hearth; oak-grained (or oak-figured) wooden mantle .

Plumbing: none.

Lighting and Electricity: central ceiling fixture; switch on northeast wall; duplex outlet on southeast wall.

Other: Two closets (side-by-side) stand at the left of the fireplace with lancet-shaped door panels; wood is oak-grained (or oak-figured) ; main gas line to dwelling is on southeast wall; door, window and fireplace trim are oak-grained (or oak-figured).

#### Interior Description: Room 4

Function: dining room.

Dimensions: 11' x 15'1"; 9'10" ceiling.

Wallcovering: 5 1/4" horizontal boards covered with drywall; painted blue-green.

Floorcovering: 5 1/4" plain boards; linoleum previously covered central area of room; boards oak-grained (or oak-figured) around periphery of room.

Ceiling: 5" plain boards; painted white.

Baseboard: 9" plain board with 1" ogee cap molding; oak-grained (or oak-figured).

Heating: fireplace.

Fireplace: plastered sandstone; coal burning grate; 1'5 1/2" x 4'1 1/2" sandstone hearth; oak-grained (or oak-figured) wooden mantle.

Plumbing: none.

Lighting and Electricity: central ceiling fixture; switch on northeast wall adjacent to door.

Other: An oak-grained closet is found to right (i.e., southwest) of the fireplace; door, window and fireplace trim are oak-grained (or oak-figured).

TABLE  
Tract 1516 (dwelling): Door Details

Position*	Opening	Style	Hinge	Latch/Lock	Interior Surround Trim	Exterior Surround Trim	Threshold
Room 1 to Room 2	2'8 3/8" x 6'8 1/2"	4 panel; transom	3 1/2" ornate cast butt	mortise lock; porcelain face plate; knobs and escutcheon	6 1/4" mold	6 1/2" mold	yes
Room 2 to Exterior	3' 1/4" x 7'	4 panel; ruby glass transom	3 1/2" ornate cast pin butt	mortise lock; porcelain face plate; knobs and escutcheon	6 1/2" mold	6 1/2" plain board	yes
Room 2 to Room 3	2'7 3/4" x 6'8 1/2"	4 panel; transom	3 1/2" ornate cast pin butt	mortise lock; porcelain face plate; knobs and escutcheon	6 1/2" mold	6 1/2" mold	yes
Room 3 to Closet (far left of fireplace)	2'8 1/4" x 6'8 1/4"	4 panel	3 1/2" ornate cast pin butt	2 3/4" x 3 5/8" rim lock on interior; porcelain knob and escutcheon on exterior; no interior knob	—	—	yes
Room 3 to Exterior	2'8 1/2" x 7'	4 panel; ruby glass transom	3 1/2" ornate cast pin butt	mortise lock; porcelain face plate; knobs and escutcheon	6 1/2" mold	2" plain board	yes
Room 3 to Room 4	2'8" x 6'8 1/2"	4 panel; transom	3 1/2" ornate cast pin butt	mortise lock; porcelain face plate; knobs and escutcheon	—	4 1/4" mold	yes

Table (cont.)

Position*	Opening	Style	Hinge	Latch/Lock	Interior Surround Trim	Exterior Surround Trim	Threshold
Room 3 to Closet (immediately left of fireplace)	9" x 7'4"	lancet-shaped single panel	2" butt	spring action latch	--	--	yes
Room 4 to Room 2	2'8 1/4" x 6'8"	4 panel; transom	3 1/2" ornate cast pin butt	mortise lock; porcelain face plate and escutcheon; glass knob	6 1/2" mold	6 1/2" mold	yes
Room 4 to Room 5	2'8 1/4" x 6'8"	4 panel; transom	3 1/2" ornate cast pin butt	mortise lock; porcelain face plates, escutcheon and knob on Room 4 side; earthenware knob on Room 5 side	6 1/2" mold	6 1/2" mold	yes
Room 4 to Closet	2'8 1/2" x 6'8 1/4"	4 panel	2" butt	2 3/4" x 3 5/8" rim lock on interior; porcelain knob on exterior; no interior knob	--	--	yes
Room 5 to Exterior	2'8" x 6'8"	4 panel; transom	3 1/2" ornate cast pin butt	mortise lock; porcelain knobs, escutcheon and face plates	6 1/2" mold	2" plain board	yes
Room 6 to Room 7	2'7 7/8" x 6'8 1/4"	4 panel; transom	3 1/2" ornate cast pin butt	mortise lock; porcelain knobs, escutcheon and face plates	6 1/2" mold	6 3/4" mold	yes

Table (cont.)

Position*	Opening	Style	Hinge	Latch/Lock	Interior Surround Trim	Exterior Surround Trim	Threshold
Room 6 to Closet (southeast end of room)	2'8 1/4" x 6'8 1/2"	4 panel	2" butt	2 3/4" x 3 5/8" rim lock on interior; porcelain knob on exterior; no interior knob	--	--	yes
Room 6 to Closet (northwest end of room)	2'8 1/8" x 6'8 5/8"	4 panel	2" butt	2 3/4" x 3 5/8" rim lock on interior; porcelain knob on exterior; no interior knob	--	--	yes
Room 7 to Exterior	2'8" x 6'8 1/2"	6 panel; top panel glass	3 1/2" ornate cast pin butt	mortise rim lock on interior; porcelain knob on exterior; no interior knob	6 3/4" mold	2" plain boards	yes
Room 7 to Room 9	2'8" x 6'8"	4 panel; transom	3 1/2" ornate cast pin butt	mortise lock; porcelain knobs; escutcheon and face plate	6 3/4" mold	6 1/2" mold	yes
Room 7 to Room 8	2'7 3/4" x 6'8 1/4"	4 panel; transom	3 1/2" ornate cast pin butt	mortise lock; porcelain knobs; escutcheon and face plate	6 3/4" mold	6 1/2" mold	yes
Room 8 to Closet (southwest end of room)	2'8" x 6'8 3/4"	4 panel	2" butt	2 3/4" x 3 5/8" rim lock on interior; porcelain knob on exterior; no interior knob	--	--	yes

Table (cont.)

Position*	Opening	Style	Hinge	Latch/Lock	Interior Surround Trim	Exterior Surround Trim	Threshold
Room 8 to Closet (northeast end of room)	2'8" x 6'8 3/4"	4 panel	2" butt	2 3/4" x 3 5/8" rim lock on interior; porcelain knob on exterior; no interior knob	--	--	yes
Room 9 to Closet (northeast end of room)	2'8" x 6'8 1/2"	4 panel	2" butt	2 3/4" x 3 5/8" rim lock on interior; porcelain knob on exterior; no interior knob	--	--	yes
Room 9 to Closet (southwest end of room)	2'8" x 6'8 1/2"	4 panel	2" butt	2 3/4" x 3 5/8" rim lock on interior; porcelain knob on exterior; no interior knob	--	--	yes
Room 9 to Room 10	1'9 1/4" x 3'9 1/2"	2 panel; tongue and groove boards 2 battens	2" butt	2 3/4" x 3 5/8" rim lock on interior; porcelain knob on exterior; no interior knob	4" mold	--	yes

\*For exact positions, refer to Figures

TABLE  
Tract 1516 (dwelling): Window Details

Position*	Style	Opening	Size of Pane	Number of Panes	Type of Sill	Interior Surround Trim	Exterior Surround Trim
<b>SOUTHEAST WALL</b>							
First Floor Left to right	double hung	33 1/2" x 78 1/2"	14" x 36"	2/2	lug	6 1/2" composite	6" composite
	double hung	33 1/2" x 78 1/2"	14" x 36"	2/2	lug	6 1/2" composite	6" composite
	double hung	33 1/2" x 78 1/2"	14" x 36"	2/2	lug	6 1/2" composite	6" composite
	double hung	33 1/2" x 78 1/2"	14" x 36"	2/2	lug	6 1/2" composite	6" composite
Second Floor Left to right	double hung	33 1/2" x 70 1/2"	14" x 32"	2/2	lug	6 1/2" composite	6" composite
	double hung	33 1/2" x 70 1/2"	14" x 32"	2/2	lug	6 1/2" composite	6" composite
	double hung	33 1/2" x 70 1/2"	14" x 32"	2/2	lug	6 1/2" composite	6" composite
	double hung	33 1/2" x 70 1/2"	14" x 32"	2/2	lug	6 1/2" composite	6" composite
<b>SOUTHWEST WALL</b>							
First Floor Left to right	double hung	33 1/2" x 78 1/2"	14" x 36"	2/2	slip	6 1/2" composite	4" plain boards
	double hung	33 1/2" x 78 1/2"	14" x 36"	2/2	slip	6 1/2" composite	4" plain boards
	double hung	33 1/2" x 78 1/2"	14" x 36"	2/2	slip	6 1/2" composite	4" plain boards
Second Floor Left to right	double hung	33 1/2" x 70 1/2"	14" x 32"	2/2	slip	6 1/2" composite	4" plain boards
	double hung	33 1/2" x 70 1/2"	14" x 32"	2/2	slip	6 1/2" composite	4" plain boards
<b>NORTHWEST WALL</b>							
First Floor Left to right	double hung	33 1/2" x 78 1/2"	14" x 36"	2/2	slip	6 1/2" composite	3 1/2" plain boards
	horizontal sliding (modern)	22 1/2" x 23"	10" x 20"	1 by 1		1 1/4" ranch mold	
Second Floor Left to right	double hung	33 1/2" x 70 1/2"	14" x 32"	2/2	slip	6 1/2" composite	4" plain boards

\*For exact positions, refer to Figures

Interior Description: Room 5

Function: kitchen.

Dimensions: 9'2" x 13'5"; 9'11 1/2" ceiling.

Wallcovering: 5 3/4" horizontal boards covered with drywall; painted blue-green.

Floorcovering: 2 1/2" oak boards; covered with linoleum.

Ceiling: 5" plain boards; painted white.

Baseboard: 9" plain board with 1" ogee cap molding; painted light yellow; originally oak-grained (or oak-figured).

Heating: none.

Fireplace: none; chimney hole in north corner of ceiling; probably originally for a cook stove.

Plumbing: none.

Lighting and Electricity: central ceiling fixture; switch on southeast wall adjacent to door; switch presumably for exterior porch lighting on northeast wall adjacent to door.

Other: Door and window trims are painted a cream color.

Interior Description: Room 6

Function: bedroom.

Dimensions: 14'4 1/2" x 15'1"; 8'4" ceiling.

Wallcovering: 5 3/4" horizontal boards covered with linen then floral design wallpaper.

Floorcovering: 5 1/4" plain boards; linoleum previously covered central area; boards painted deep red around periphery of room.

Ceiling: 5" plain boards; painted white.

Baseboard: 9" plain board with 1" ogee cap molding; painted dark red.

Heating: fireplace; gas connection in center of firebox.

Fireplace: plastered brick; gas connection in center of firebox area; 1'5" x 3'9 1/2" sandstone hearth; dark red wooden mantle.

Plumbing: none.

Lighting and Electricity: central ceiling fixture; switch on southeast wall adjacent to door.

Other: There are closets to the left and right of the fireplace; door, window and fireplace trim are painted deep red.

Interior Description: Room 7

Function: hallway.

Dimensions: 8'10" x 15'; 8'3" ceiling.

Wallcovering: 5 1/2" horizontal boards covered by cardboard then floral design wallpaper.

Floorcovering: 5 1/4" plain boards; linoleum covers central area; boards oak-grained (or oak-figured) around periphery of room.

Ceiling: 5" plain boards; painted white.

Baseboard: 8 1/4" plain board with 3/4" ogee cap molding; quarter round shoe; oak-grained (or oak-figured).

Heating: none.

Fireplace: none.

Plumbing: none.

Lighting and Electricity: off center (to northeast) ceiling fixture; switch on southwest wall adjacent to door to Room 8.

Stairway: See discussion for Room 2.

Other: Door and window trim are oak-grained (or oak-figured).



Interior Description: Room 8

Function: bedroom.  
Dimensions: 15'1" x 15'1"; 8'2 1/4" ceiling.  
Wallcovering: 5 3/4" horizontal boards covered by linen then floral design wallpaper.  
Floorcovering: 5 1/4" plain boards; linoleum covers central area; oak-grained (or oak-figured) around periphery of room.  
Ceiling: 5" plain boards; painted white.  
Baseboard: 8 1/4" plain board with 3/4" ogee cap molding; quarter round shoe; oak-grained (or oak-figured).  
Heating: fireplace; gas connection at north end of fireplace.  
Fireplace: plastered sandstone; cast iron fireback; 1'6 1/2" x 3'4 1/2" sandstone hearth; wooden mantle.  
Plumbing: none.  
Lighting and Electricity: central ceiling fixture; switch at north end of northwest wall.  
Other: Closets are found to left and right of the fireplace; door, window and fireplace trim are oak-grained (or oak-figured).

Interior Description: Room 9

Function: bedroom.  
Dimensions: 7'9" x 15'1"; 8'3" ceiling.  
Wallcovering: 5 3/4" horizontal boards covered with cardboard.  
Floorcovering: 5 1/4" plain boards; linoleum covers central area; oak-grained (or oak-figured) boards around periphery of room.  
Ceiling: 5" plain boards; painted white.  
Baseboard: 9" plain board with 1" ogee cap molding; oak-grained (or oak-figured).  
Heating: none.  
Fireplace: none.  
Plumbing: none.  
Lighting and Electricity: central ceiling fixture; switch on northwest wall adjacent to door to Room 7.  
Other: A closet is along the southeast wall; door and window trim are oak-grained (or oak-figured).

Interior Description: Room 10

Function: attic (unfinished).

Site:

General Setting and Orientation (Figure 3): The Whelan House is situated along the northwest side of West Virginia County Route 23/5 (the old Weston and Gauley Bridge Turnpike); it is southwest of the Methodist Protestant Church parsonage and north of the physician's office of Dr. M. E. Whelan who built and for many years owned the dwelling. The White Hotel (HABS No. WV-209-F) is to the southwest, two structures away.

Historic Landscape Design: Inasmuch as the dwelling was vacant for almost two years prior to the study reported upon here, many plantings had been removed; the present appearance of the property is dominated by larger vegetation (trees) and abundant weeds (Figures 114, 115). The front yard contains one maple (Acer sp.), American chestnut

(Castanea sp.), one large and two small holly (Ilex sp.) and one apple (Pyrus sp.) tree and quince bush (Cydonia sp.). On the southwest side of the house between it and Dr. Whelan's old office there is one each of the following: ash (Fraxinus sp.), maple (Acer sp.), American chestnut (Castanea sp.), apple (Pyrus sp.) and box elder (Acer negundo). At the rear of the dwelling, toward its northeast side, there is an ash (Fraxinus sp.) tree with a lilac (Syringa sp.) bush between it and the house. A garden plot lies behind the ash (Fraxinus sp.) tree, and a black cherry (Prunus serotina) stands behind the garden on what appears to be the northwest property line.

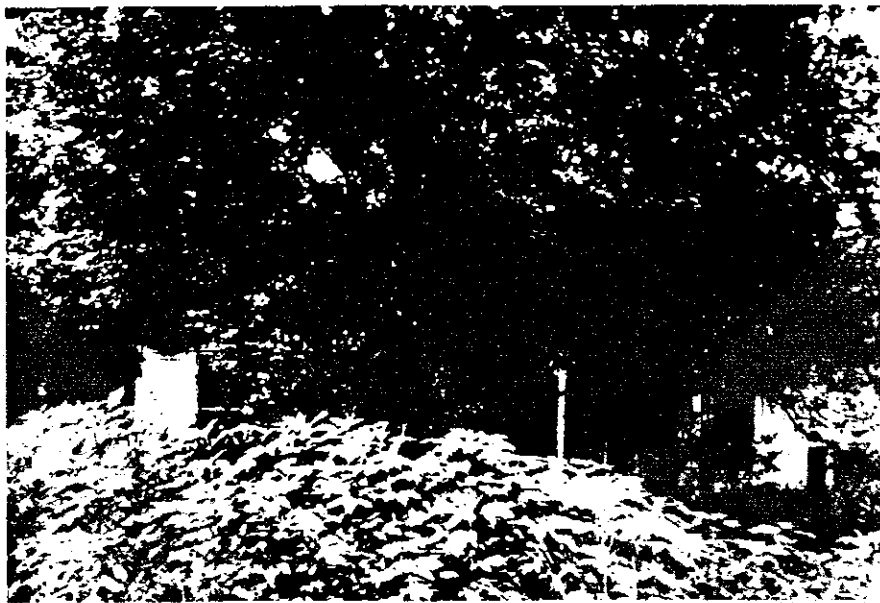
Outbuildings: none at present but see Historical Information section above.

For project information and bibliography, see ROANOKE HABS No. WV-209.  
For other structures in the Roanoke area, see HABS No. WV-209-A -S.

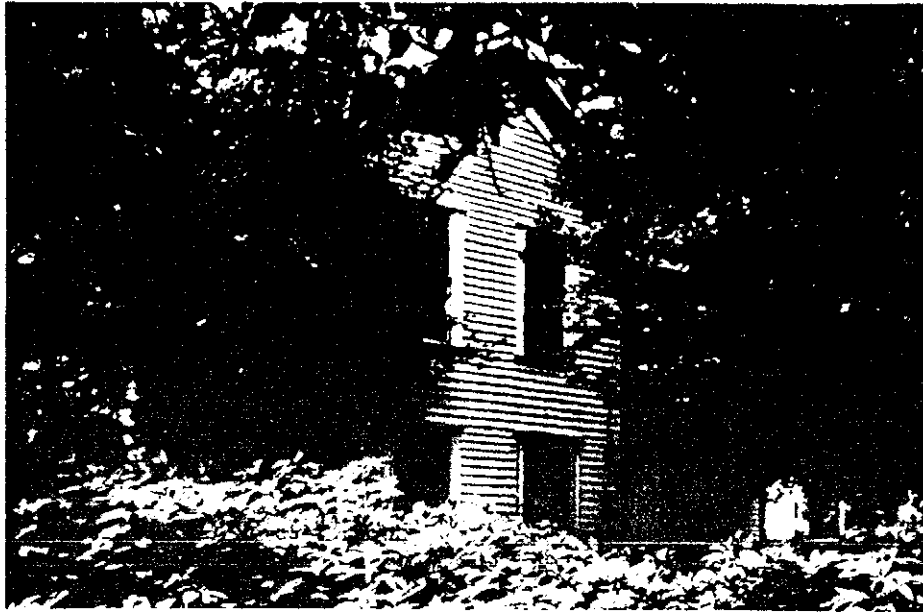
The report from which this HABS documentation was prepared, along with field notes and over 90 hours of interview tapes, will be archived at the University of West Virginia, Morgantown, West Virginia.



The southeast elevation of the M. E. Whelan dwelling ca. 1885. Dr. Whelan is at left. Others in the photograph are (left to right) Julie and Mary Whelan. Note that the second story porch on the southeast elevation has not yet been built, although a door opening onto the porch roof is visible (James Whelan Photograph Collection).



Perspective control photograph of the southeast elevation of the M. E. Whelan dwelling in 1981. Note the extensive overgrowth.



Perspective control photograph of the southeast and southwest elevations of the M. E. Whelan dwelling in 1981. Note the 2/2 light windows and the extensive overgrowth.



The southeast and southwest elevations of the M. E. Whelan dwelling in 1981. In this photograph one of the brick chimneys is visible.



Perspective control photograph of the southwest elevation of the M. E. Whelan dwelling in 1981.



Perspective control photograph of the southwest and northwest elevations of the M. E. Whelan dwelling in 1981. Note the ornamental brackets beneath the soffit.



Close-up of a 2/2 light double hung sash window typical of the M. E. Whelan dwelling. Note the exterior surround trim. This window is in the southeast elevation of the structure.



Close-up of the eaves and gable along the southwest elevation of the M. E. Whelan dwelling in 1981. Note the ornamental brackets.



Perspective control photograph of the northwest elevation of the M. E. Whelan dwelling in 1981. Note the northeast-facing porch and the ornamental brackets.



Perspective control photograph of the northwest and northeast elevations of the M. E. Whelan dwelling in 1981. Note the porch attached to the northwest elevation and the brick chimneys.



Close-up of porch attached to the northwest elevation of the M. E. Whelan dwelling in 1981. Note the ornamental brackets.



Close-up of Room 5 to exterior door from the porch attached to the northwest elevation of the M. E. Whelan dwelling in 1981.

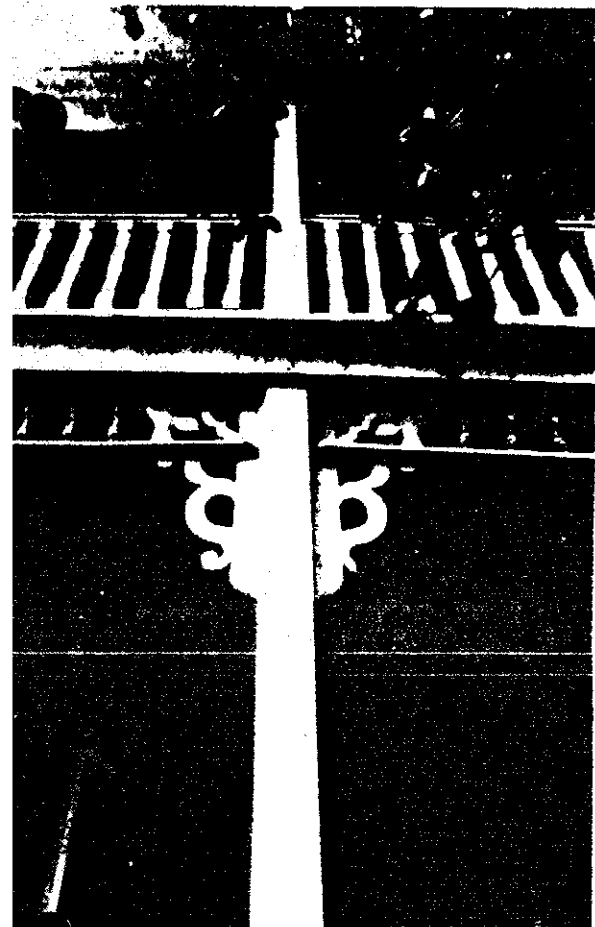




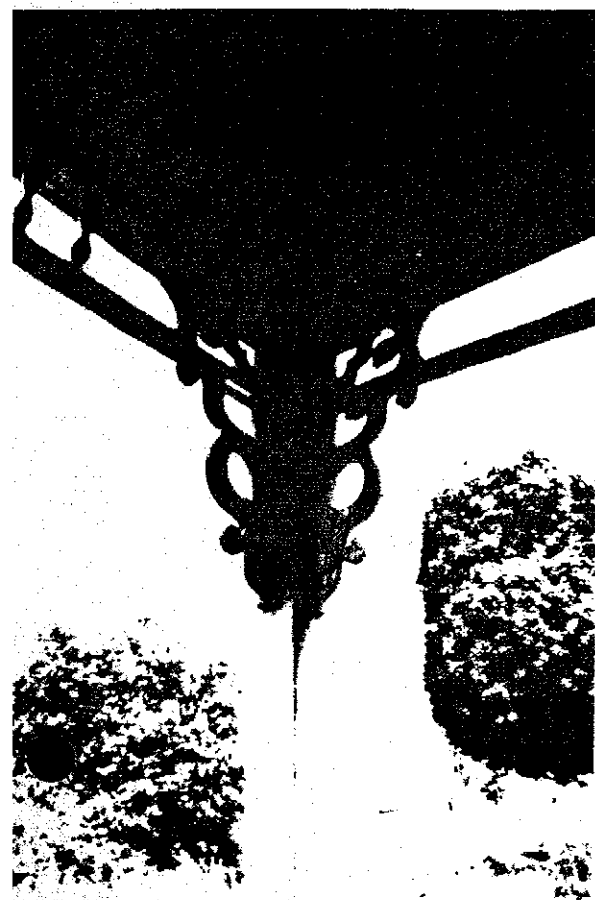
Perspective control photograph of the northeast elevation of the M. E. Whelan dwelling in 1981. Note the porches at both the front and rear of the dwelling.



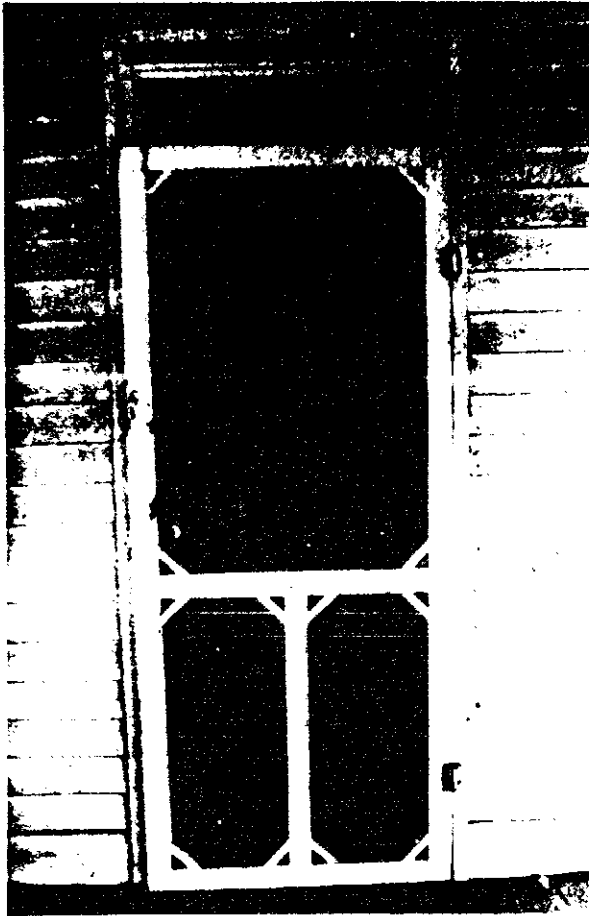
Perspective control photograph of the northeast and southeast elevations of the M. E. Whelan dwelling in 1981. Note the ornate two story porch on the southeast elevation.



Close-up of the ornate two story porch on the southeast elevation of the M. E. Whelan dwelling in 1981.



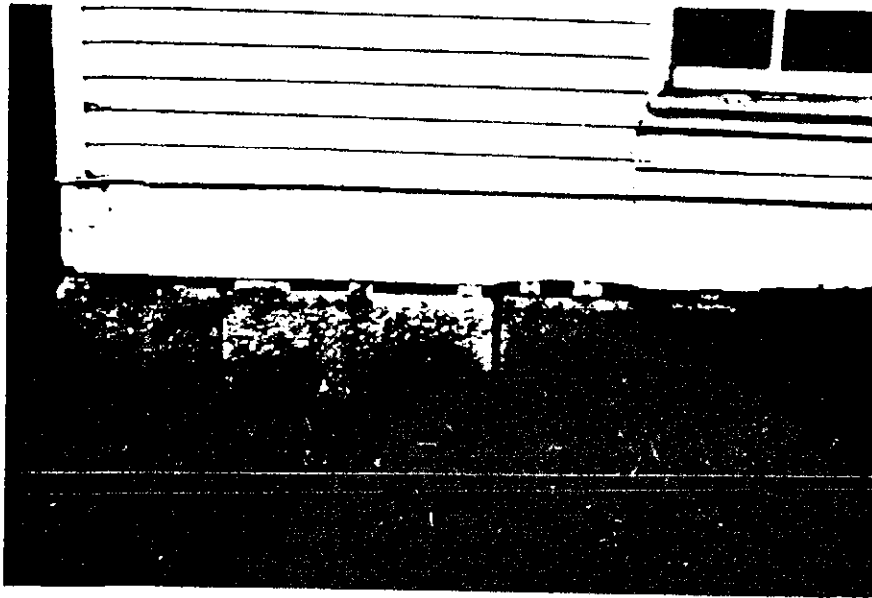
Close-up of ornate brackets and balusters of the porch attached to the southeast elevation of the M. E. Whelan dwelling in 1981.



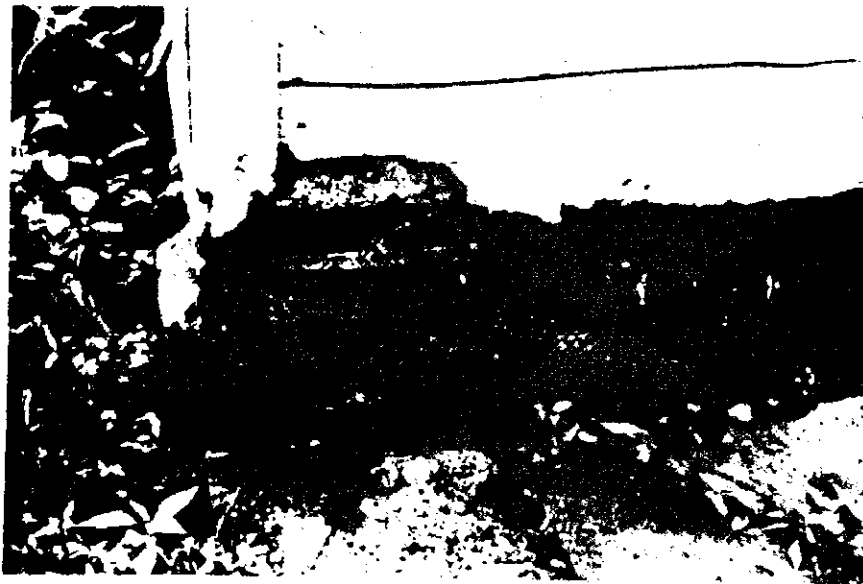
Close-up of the front screen door and the Room 2 to exterior front door in the southeast elevation of the M. E. Whelan dwelling in 1981.



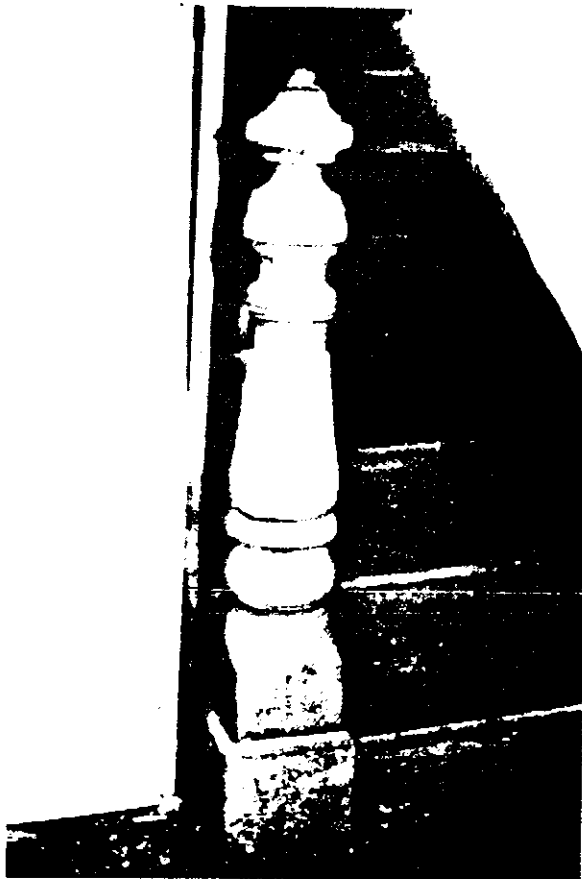
Southwest to northeast view along the second story of the porch attached to the southeast elevation of the M. E. Whelan dwelling in 1981.



Close-up of sandstone block foundation along the northwest elevation of the M. E. Whelan dwelling in 1981. This construction is typical of the dwelling as a whole. Note the dripline above the foundation.



Close-up of beveled sandstone block foundation, clapboard siding and corner boards along the southeast elevation of the M. E. Whelan dwelling in 1981.



Newel post detail in Room 2 of the M. E. Whelan dwelling in 1981. At left is the drywall-enclosed area for a more recent bathroom.



Stair stringer decorative technique in the M. E. Whelan dwelling in 1981.



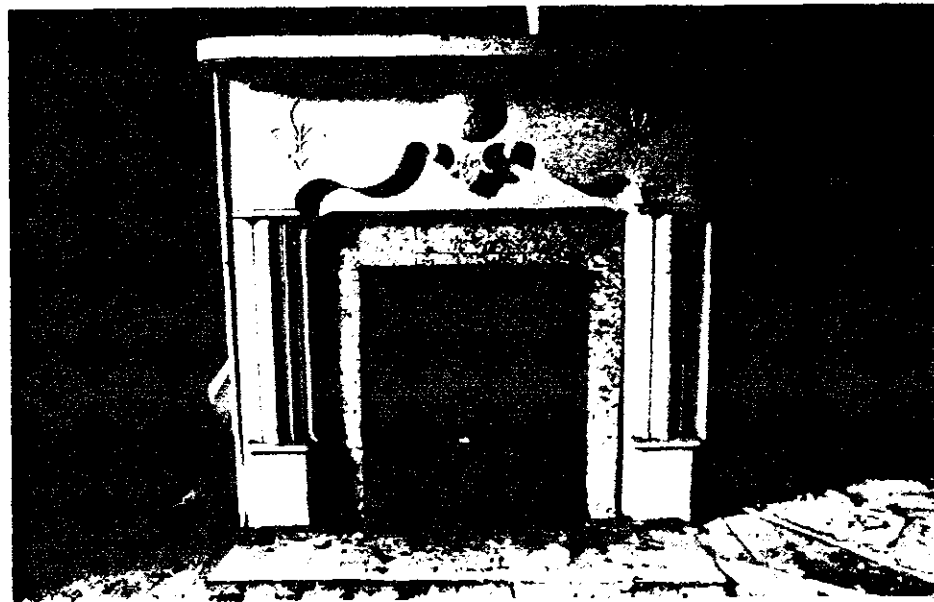
Central staircase in the M. E. Whelan dwelling in 1981. The graceful curve of the stairway is clearly visible.



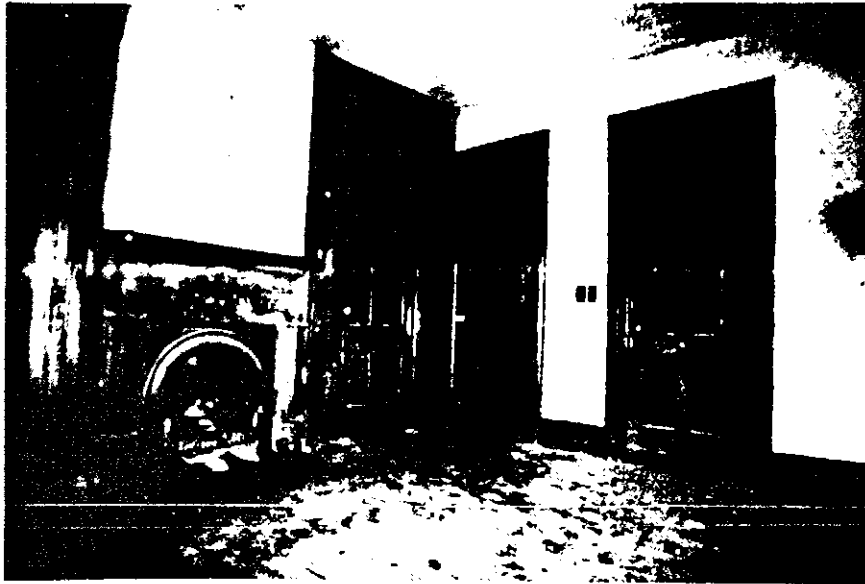
Close-up of balusters and rail in the central staircase of the M. E. Whelan dwelling in 1981.



Close-up of 2/2 double hung sash window in the southeastern elevation of Room 1 of the M. E. Whelan dwelling in 1981. Note the interior surround trim.



Close-up of ornate mantle and fireplace in Room 1 of the M. E. Whelan dwelling in 1981. Note the grate.



The north corner of Room 3 in the M. E. Whelan dwelling in 1981. This photograph gives an excellent view of the layout of the room.

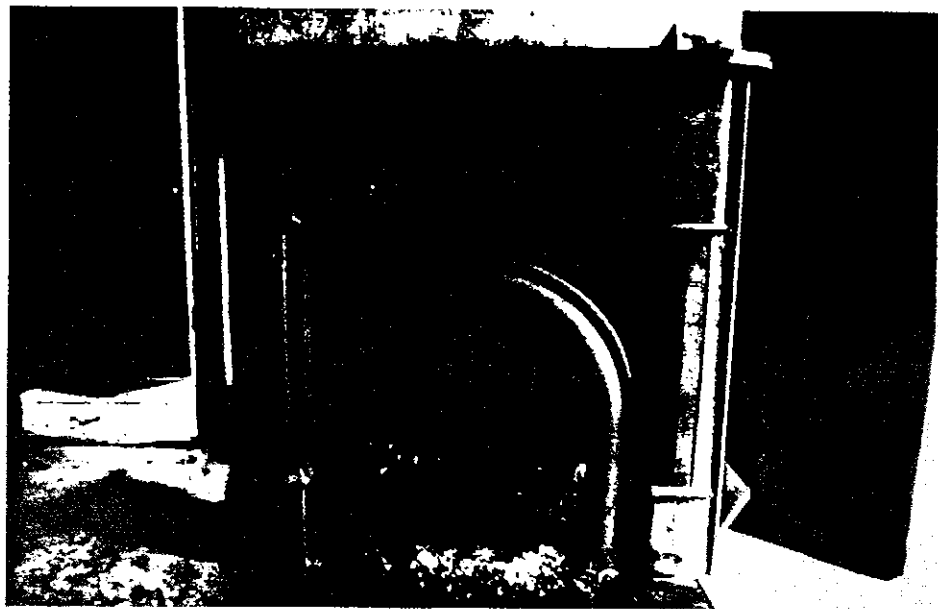


The fireplace in Room 3 of the M. E. Whelan dwelling in 1981. Note the closet to the left of the fireplace as well as the ornate mantle. At right, the door has been opened, and one can see into Room 4.

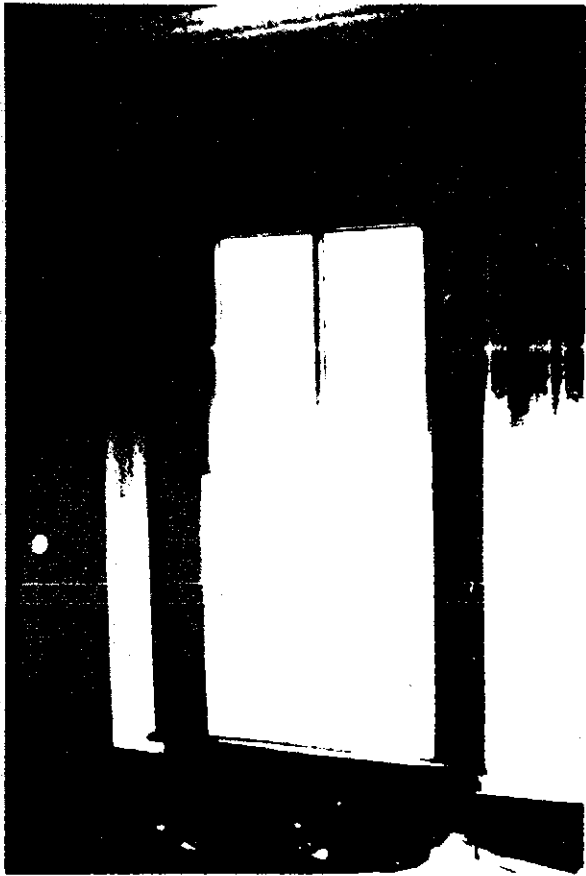




Close-up of ornate mantle  
in Room 3 of the M. E. Whelan dwell-  
ing in 1981.



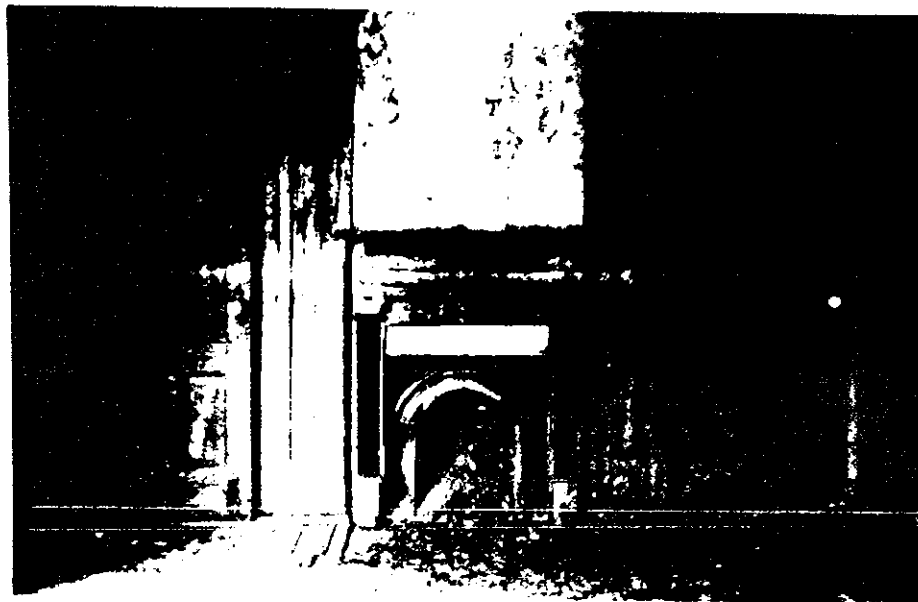
Close-up of the fireplace and mantle in Room 4 of the M. E. Whelan dwelling  
in 1981. Note the cupboard at right. Through the doorway at left, one can see Room 3.



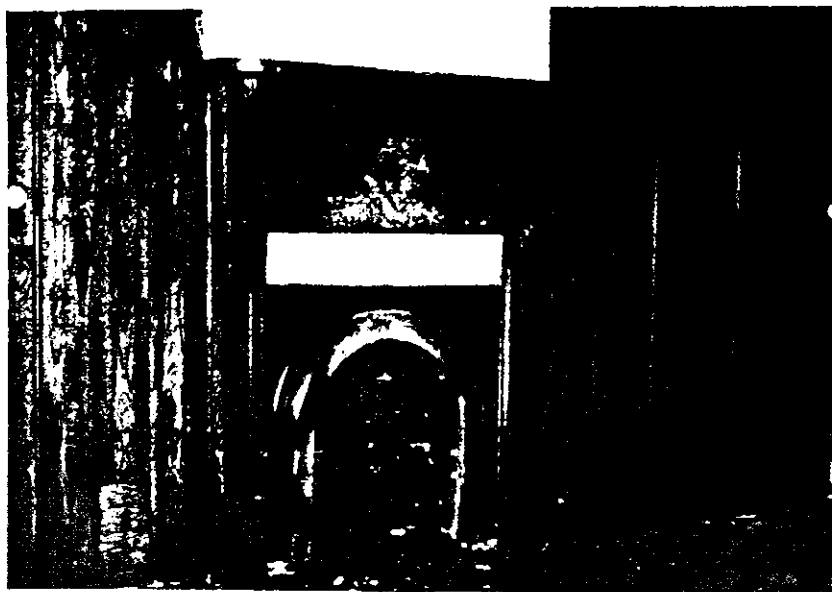
Close-up of 2/2 double  
hung sash window in the southeast ele-  
vation of Room 6 of the M. E. Whelan  
dwelling in 1981.



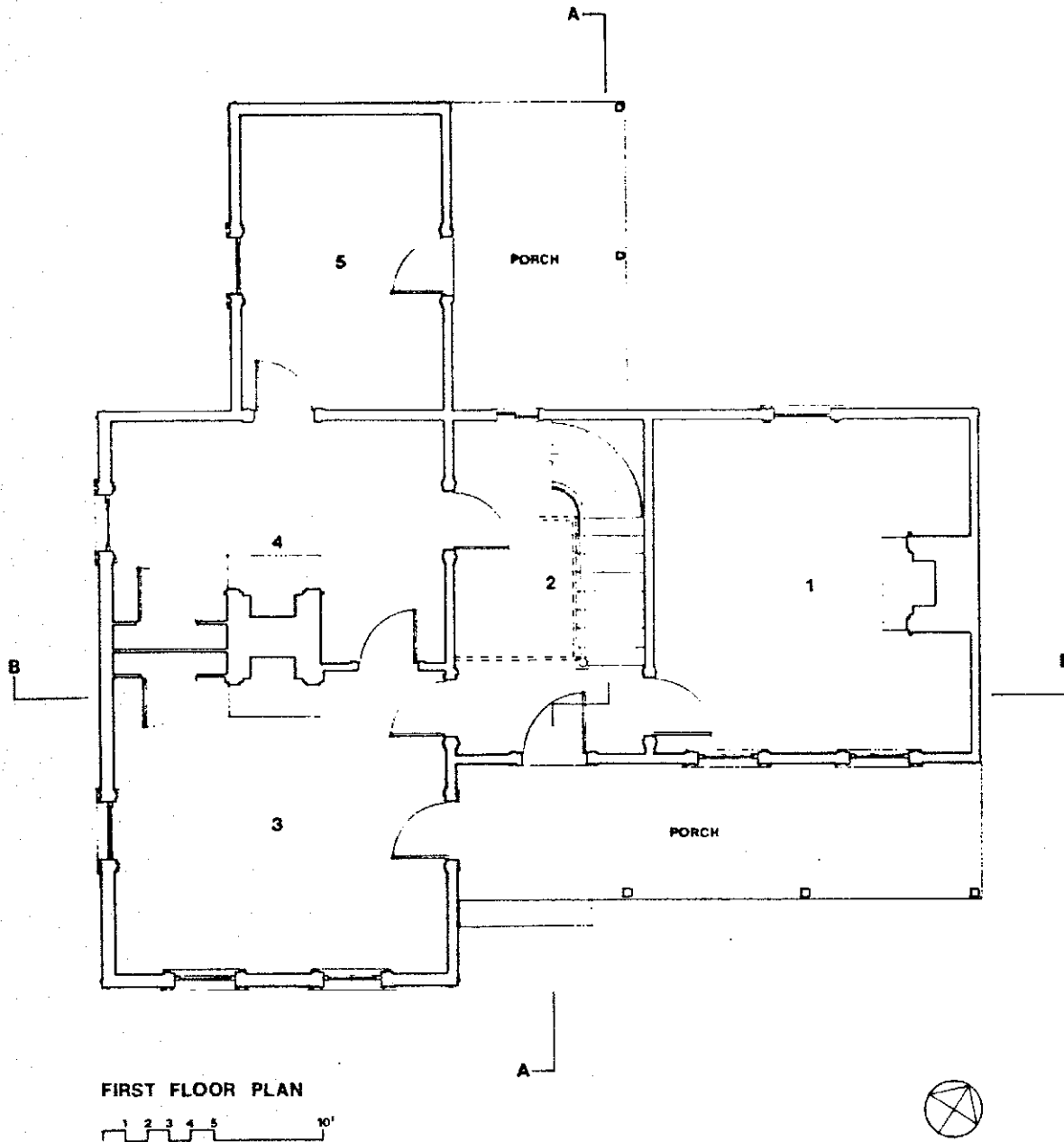
Fireplace and closets in the northeast wall of Room 6 of the M. E. Whelan  
dwelling in 1981.



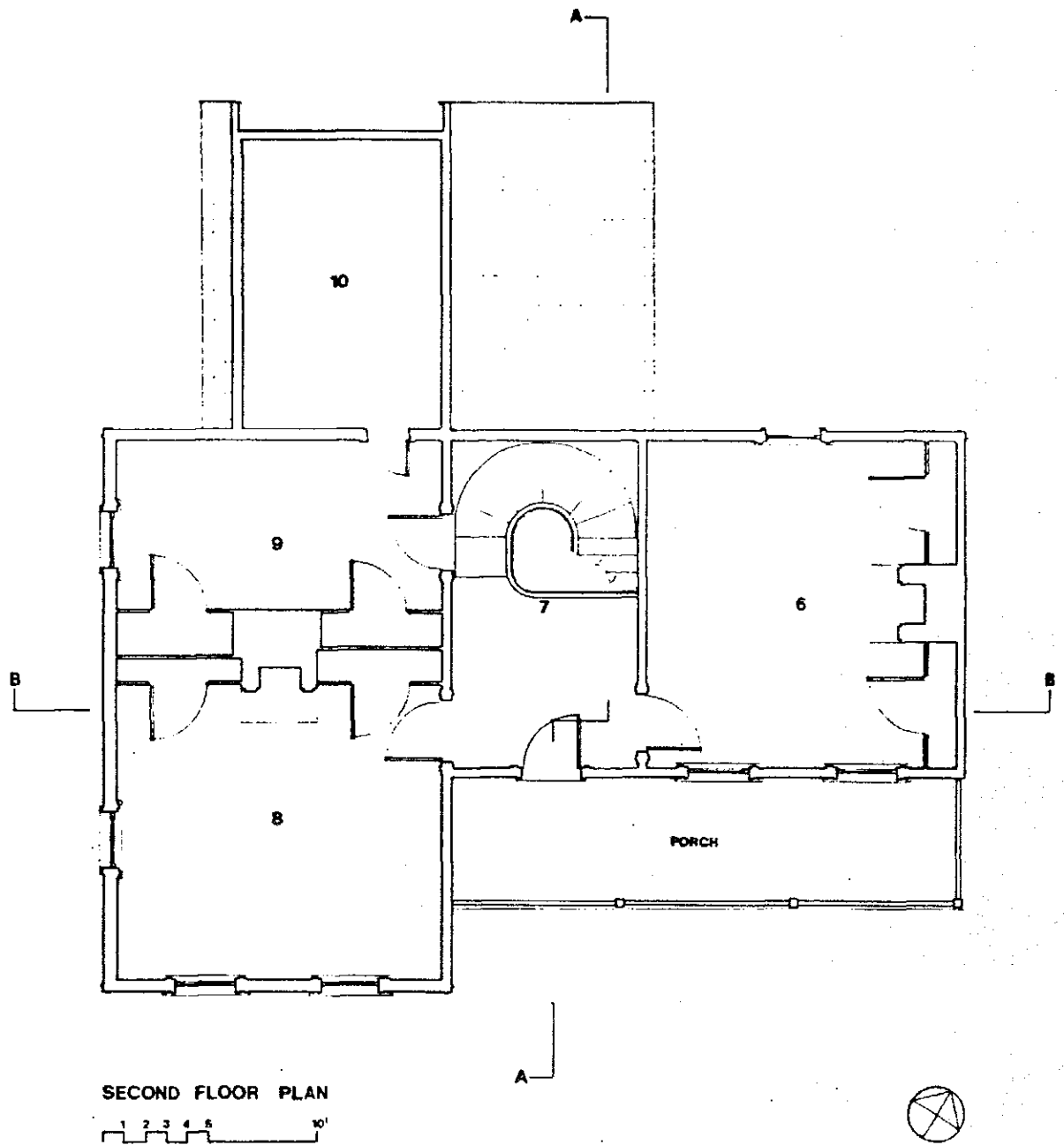
Fireplace and closets in the northwest wall of Room 8 of the M. E. Whelan dwelling in 1981.



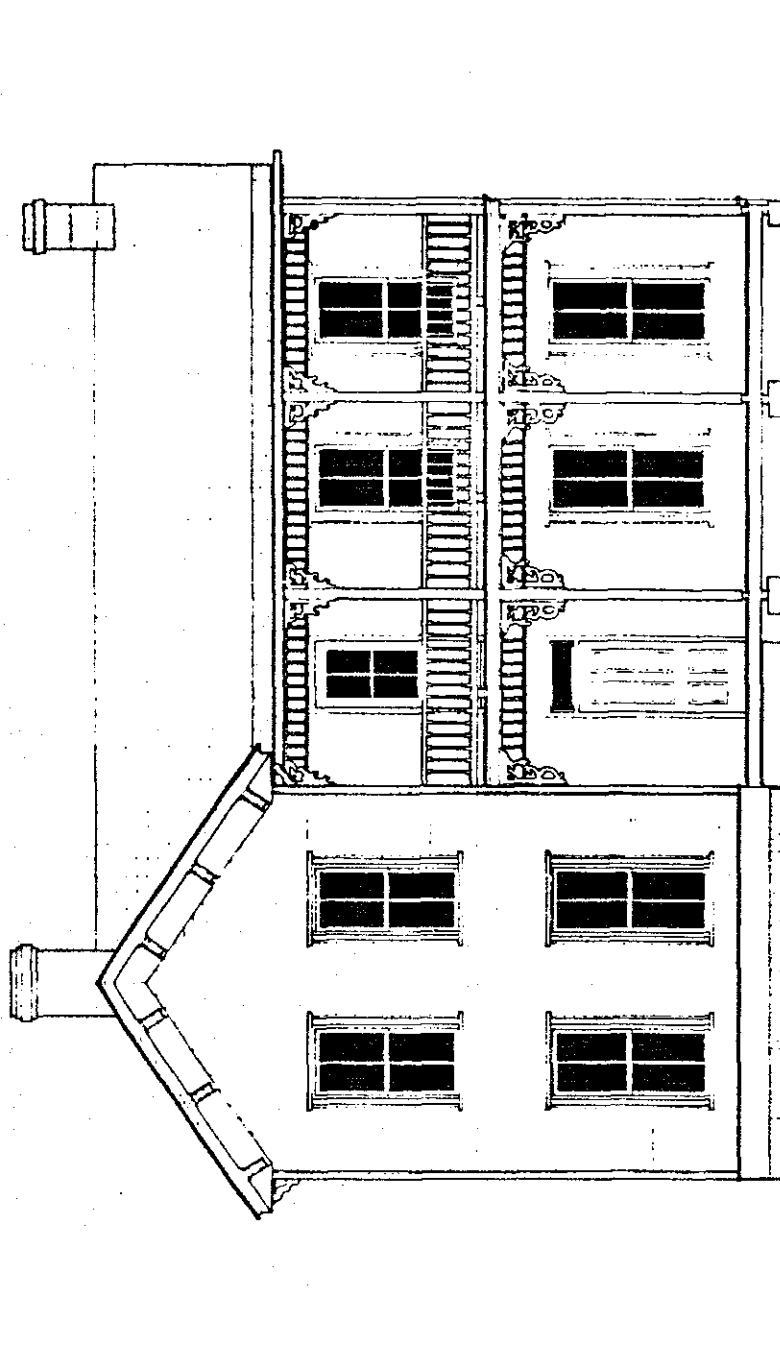
Close-up of fireplace and mantle in Room 8 of the M. E. Whelan dwelling in 1981.



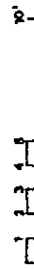
First floor plan of the M. E. Whelan dwelling.



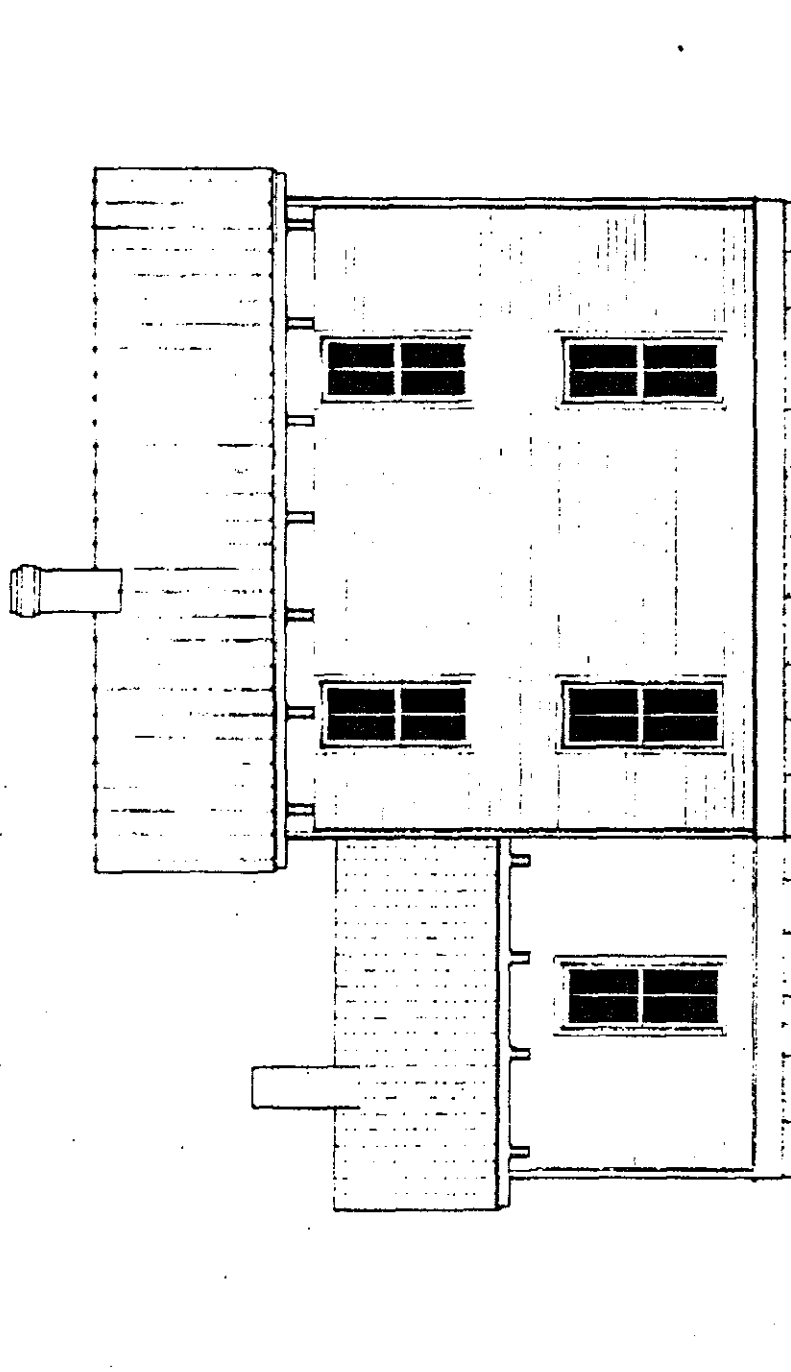
Second floor plan of the M. E. Whelan dwelling.



SOUTHEAST ELEVATION



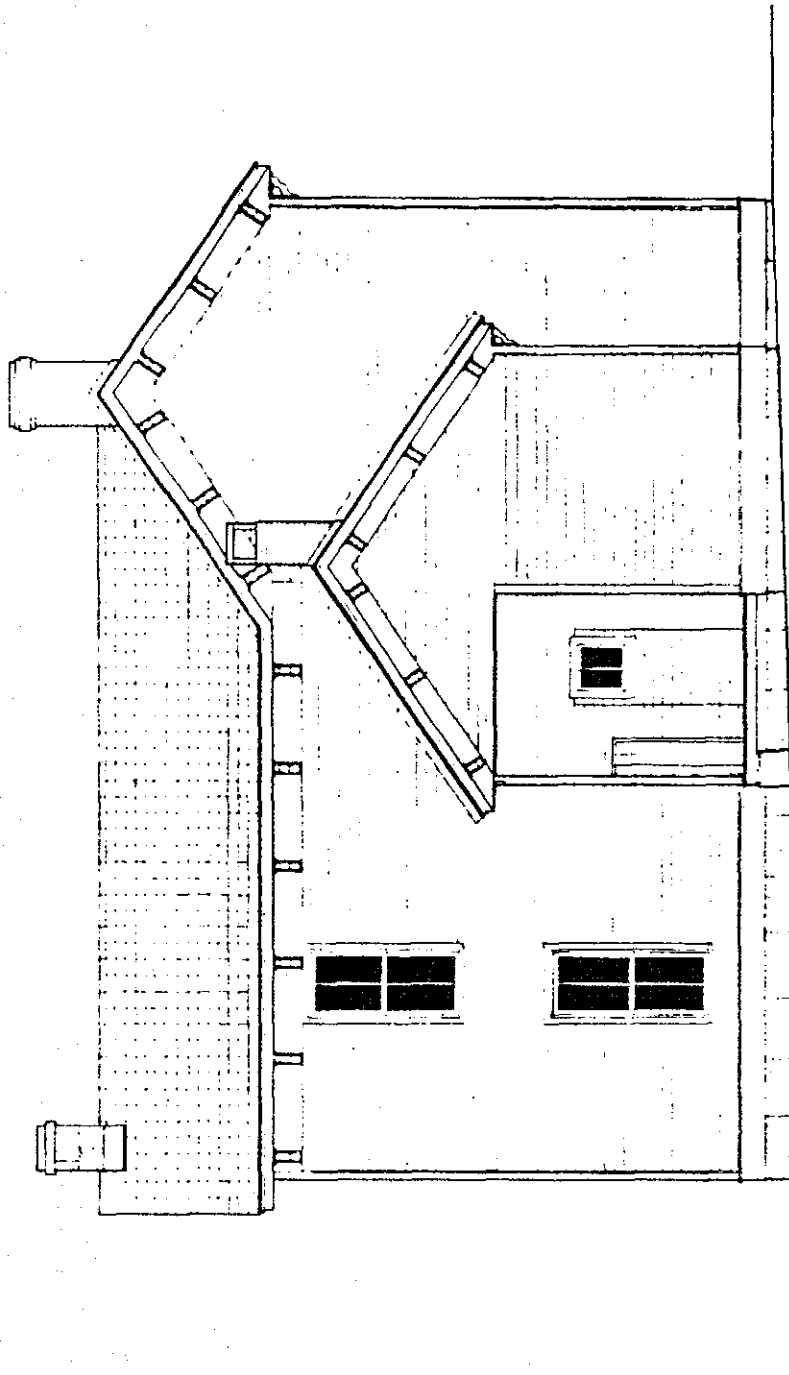
Southeast elevation of the M. E. Whelan dwelling.



SOUTHWEST ELEVATION



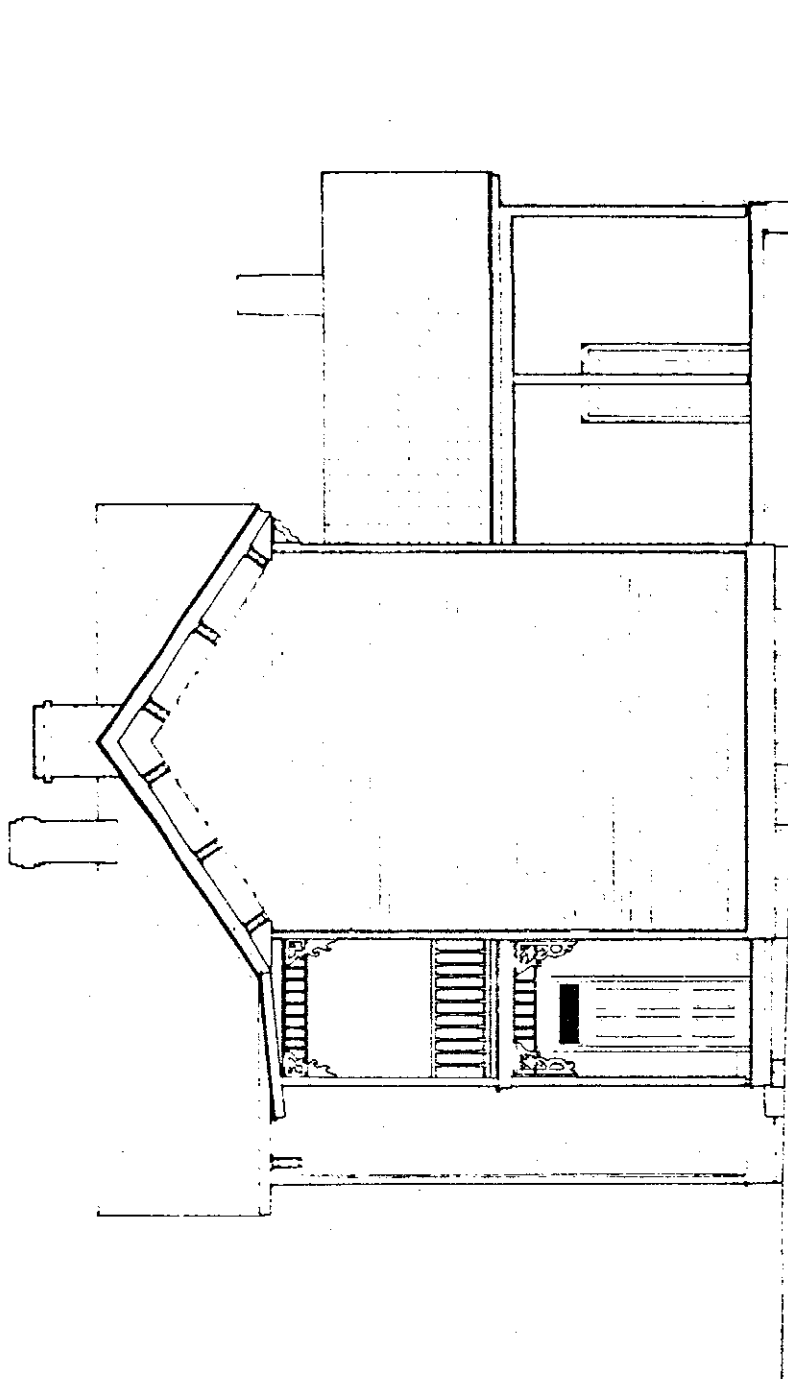
Southwest elevation of the M. E. Whelan dwelling.



NORTHWEST ELEVATION  
1 2 3 4 5 10'

Northwest elevation of the M. E. Whelan dwelling.

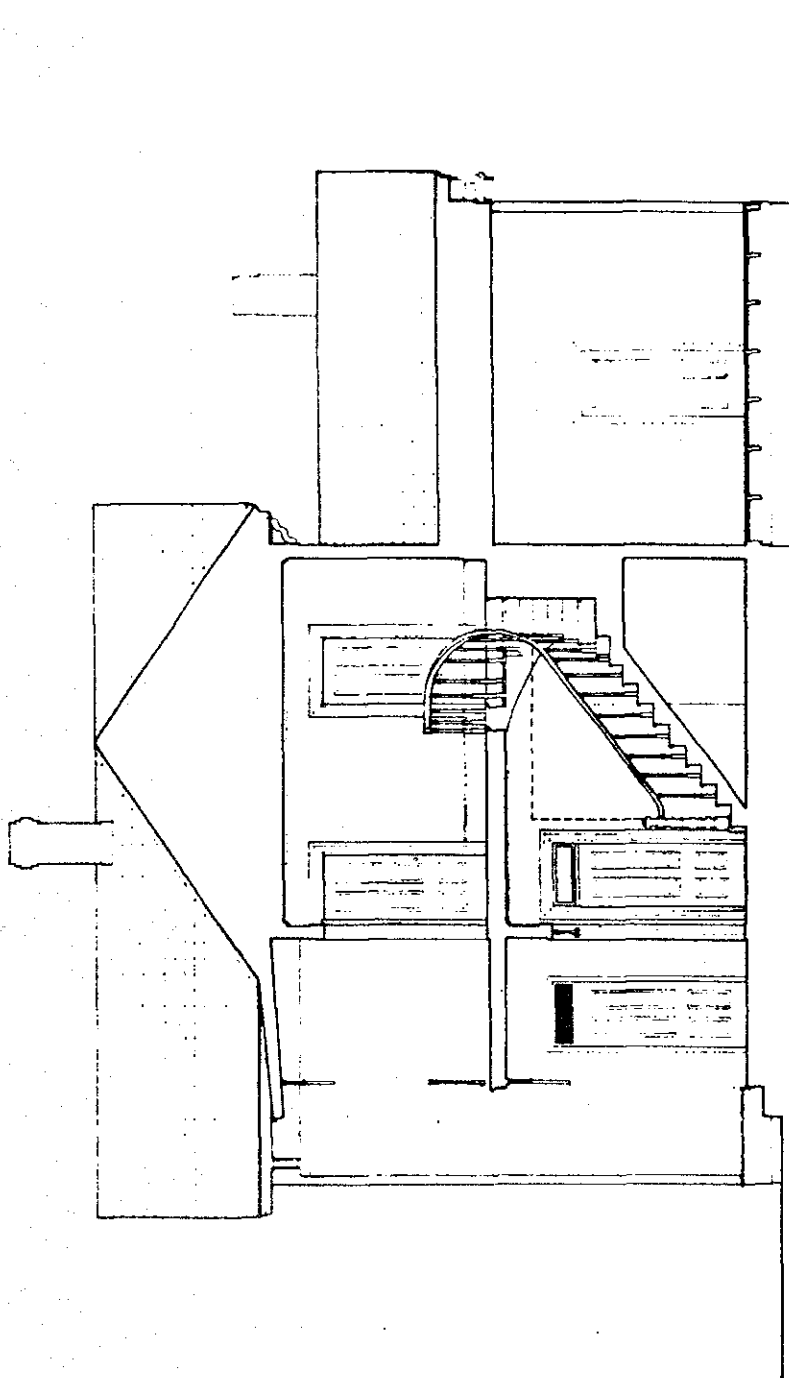




NORTHEAST ELEVATION



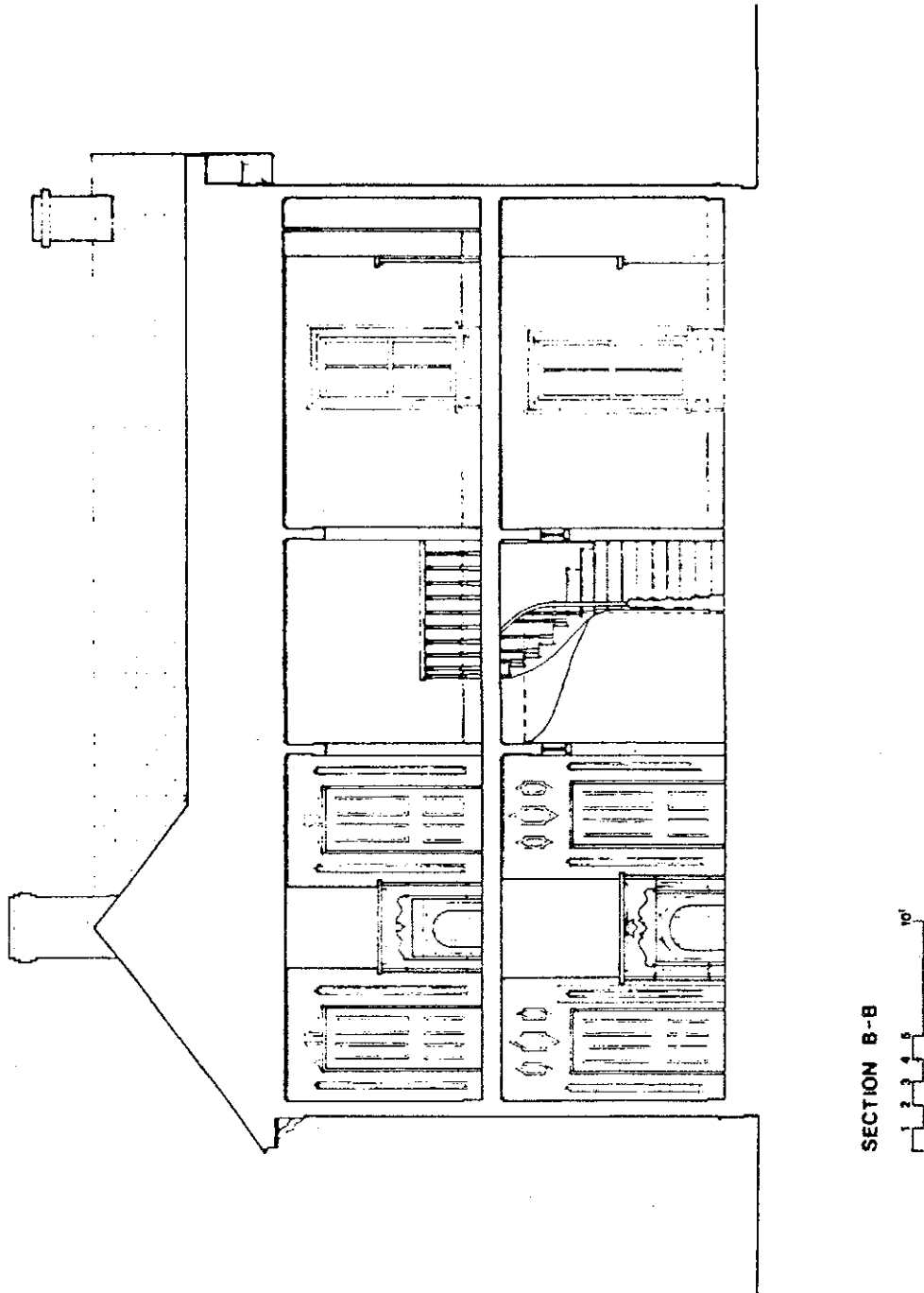
Northeast elevation of the M. E. Whelan dwelling.



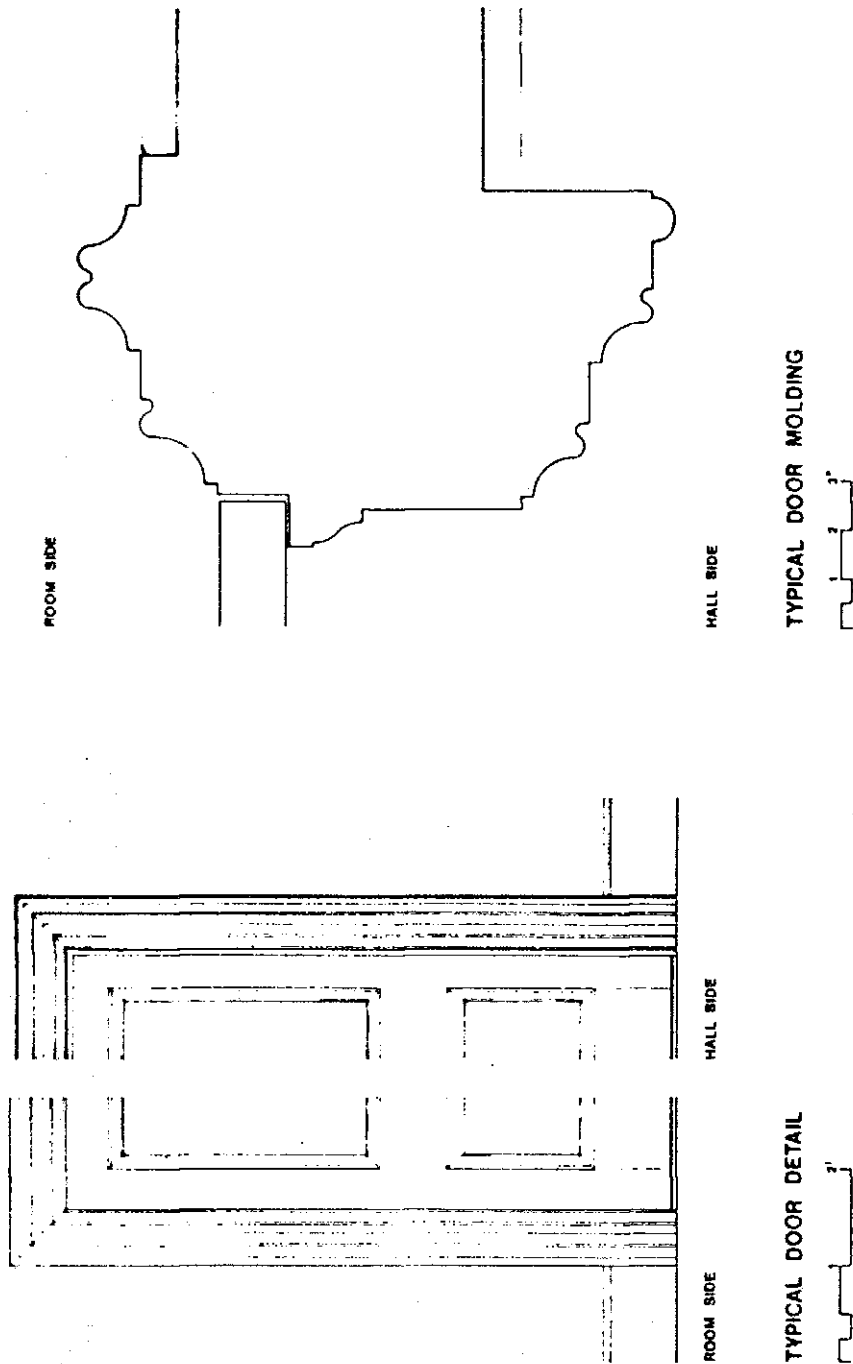
SECTION A-A



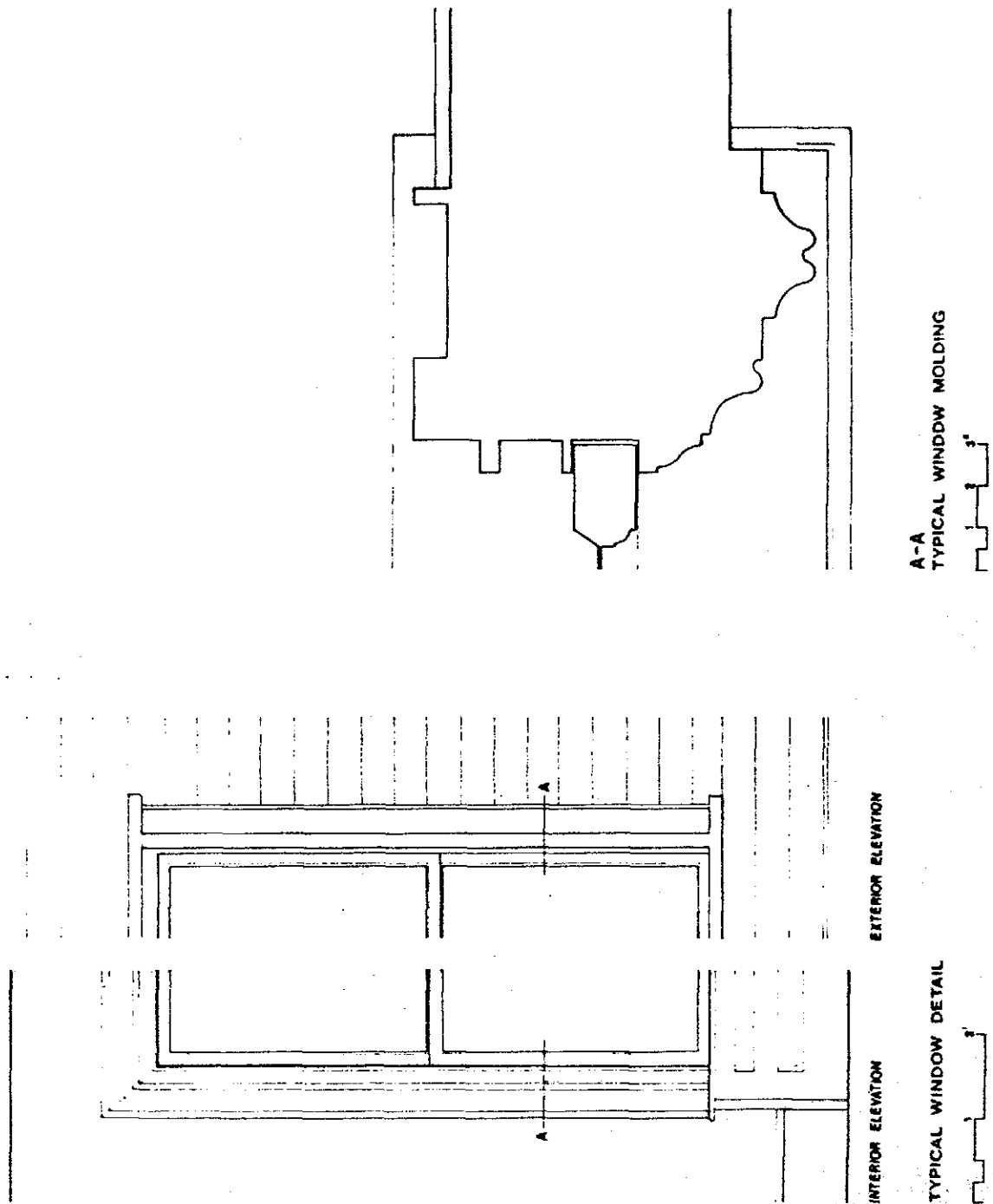
Longitudinal section (A-A) through the M. E. Whelan dwelling.



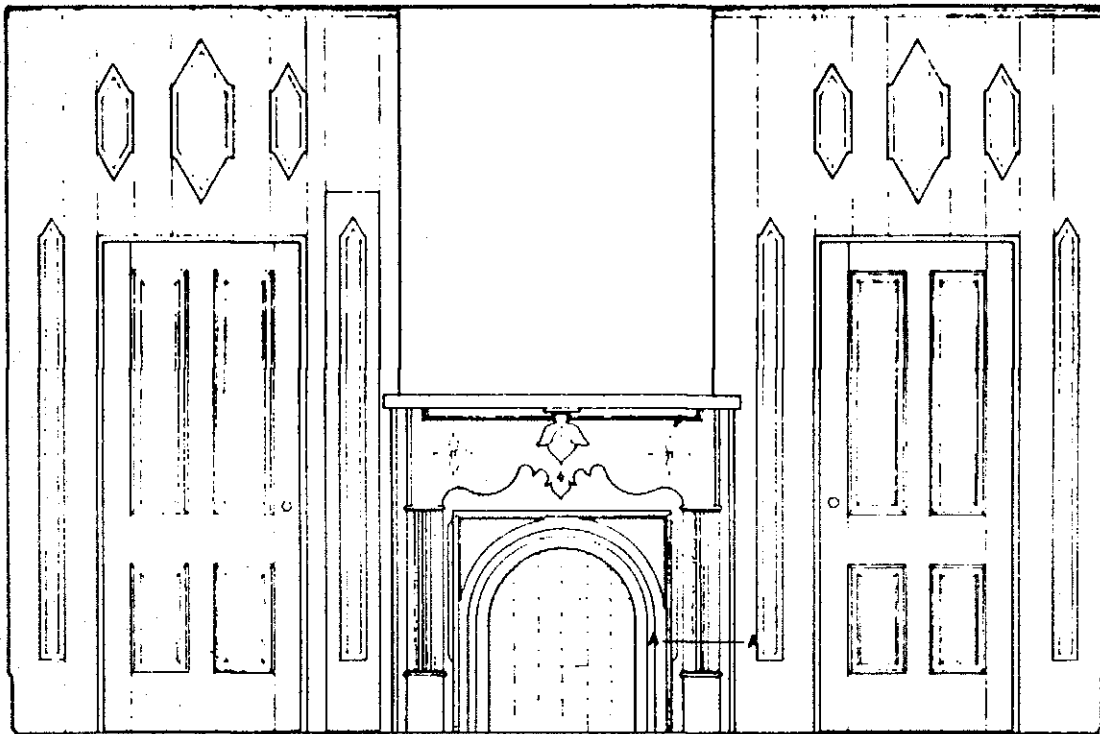
Transverse section (B-B) through the M. E. Whelan dwelling.



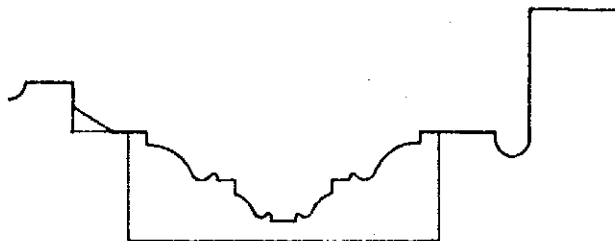
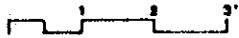
Typical door details in the M. E. Whelan dwelling.



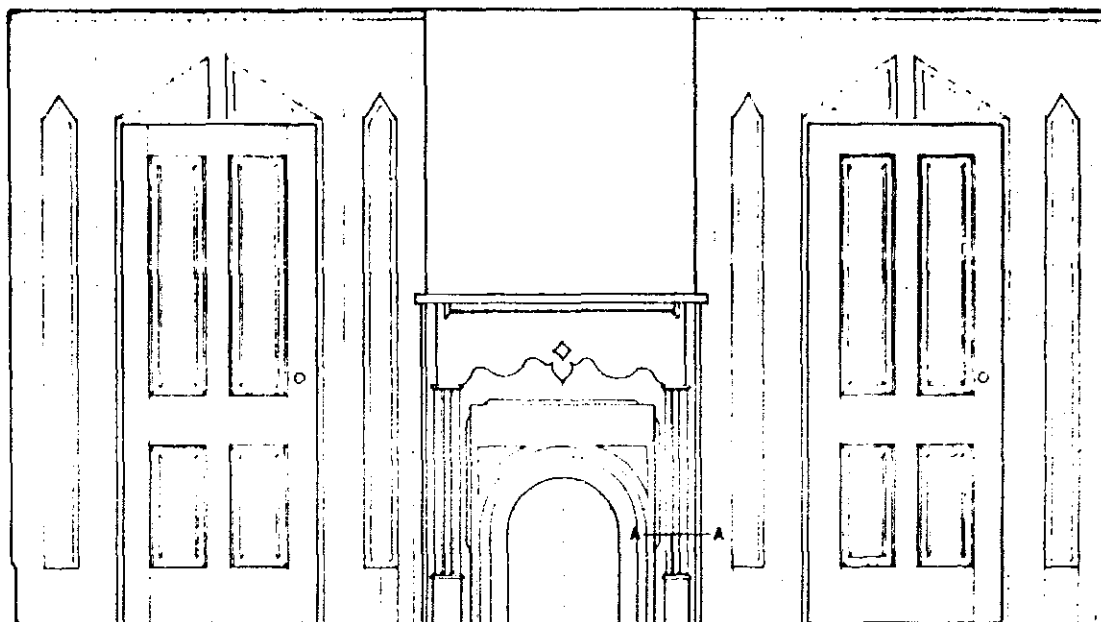
Typical window details in the M. E. Whelan dwelling.



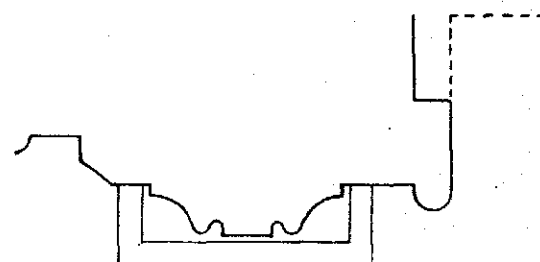
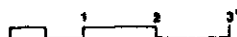
ROOM 3  
NORTHWEST WALL ELEVATION  
ROOM 4  
MANTEL IDENTICAL



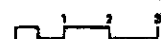
Northwest wall elevation in Room 3 of the M. E. Whelan dwelling.



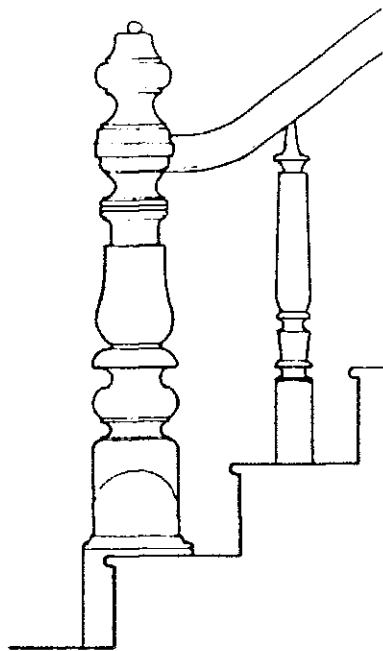
ROOM 6  
NORTHEAST WALL ELEVATION  
ROOM 8  
NORTHWEST WALL ELEVATION



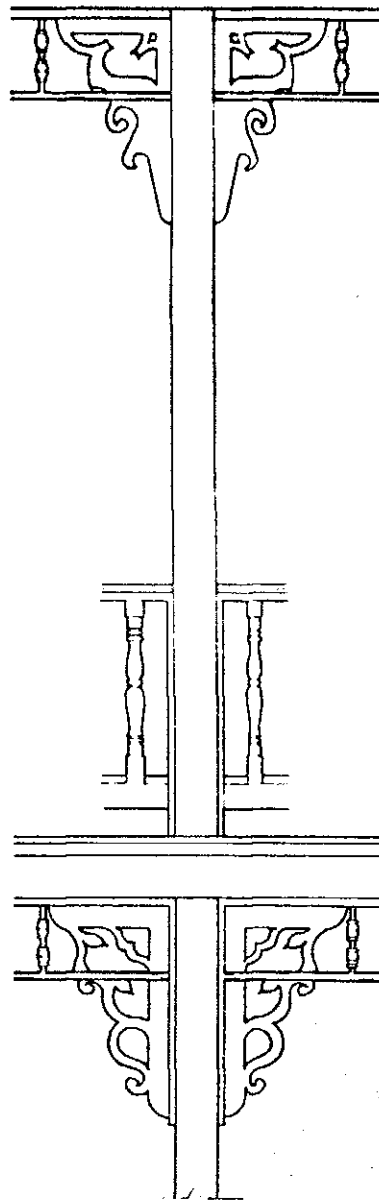
A-A



Northeast wall elevation of Room 6 and northwest wall elevation of Room 8  
of the M. E. Whelan dwelling.



STAIR DETAIL



PORCH DETAIL

Stair and porch details of the M. E. Whelan dwelling.